

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 8 and 13 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 1, 3, and 9 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 9-12 are pending.

Objection to Claim 9

The Office Action objects to claim 9 for incorrectly deleting the term "device." Applicant amends claim 9 to obviate this objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Objection to Claims 8 and 13

The Office Action objects to claims 8 for being dependent upon rejected base claim 3 and objects to claim 13 as being dependent upon rejected base claim 9. Claims 8 and 13 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-6 and 9-12 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,119,184 issued to Takahama in view of U.S. Patent 5,547,399 issued to Naghi et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Naghi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted in items 14 and 15 of the Office Action, Takahama and Naghi, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest, "wherein the grounding jack has a grounding conductor and no power supply terminal," as recited in independent claims 1, 3, and 9.

Claims 2 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 2 is also patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

Claims 4-6 depend from claim 3 and include all of the features of claim 3. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 4-6 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Claims 10-12 depend from claim 9 and include all of the features of claim 9. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 10-12 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Summary

Claims 1-6 and 9-12 are pending and under consideration. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references taken alone or in combination disclose the present claimed invention.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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